

IDAHO NEWS RELEASE



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IDAHO RED MEAT PRODUCTION DOWN 21 PERCENT

Commercial red meat production at Idaho packing plants for November 2003 totaled 42.4 million pounds, down 21 percent from last year according to the Idaho Agricultural Statistics Service. November production was down 11 percent from October's 47.9 million pounds. Accumulated red meat production for the January-November 2003 period totaled 533 million pounds, down 7 percent from the comparable period a year earlier.

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.53 billion pounds in November, down 10 percent from the 3.91 billion pounds produced in November 2002. Beef production, at 1.78 billion pounds, was 18 percent below the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.43 million head, down 15 percent from November 2002. The average live weight was down 24 pounds from the previous year, at 1,236 pounds. Veal production totaled 15.2 million pounds, 10 percent below November a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 78,000 head, down 14 percent from November 2002. The average live weight was 12 pounds above last year, at 321 pounds. Pork production totaled 1.71 billion pounds, up slightly from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 8.58 million head, 1 percent below November 2002. The average live weight was 1 pound above the previous year, at 269 pounds. Lamb and mutton production, at 16.3 million pounds, was down 8 percent from November 2002. Sheep slaughter totaled 236,300 head, 13 percent below last year. The average live weight was 138 pounds, up 6 pounds from November a year ago. January to November 2003 commercial red meat production was 42.7 billion pounds, down 2 percent from 2002. Accumulated beef production was down 3 percent from last year, veal was down 3 percent, pork was up 1 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was down 9 percent.

For More Information Call: (208) 334-1507.